

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of funding a purchase from a vendor, comprising:
a customer electronically providing a first account code to the vendor to secure a payment for a customer transaction;
the vendor electronically providing the first account code to a funding entity;
the funding entity remitting at least a portion of the payment to the vendor, and billing the customer for the transaction; and
the funding entity attempting to collect a remittance from the customer, but having primary recourse against the vendor, and only contingent recourse against the customer if the vendor fails to make an adequate remittance.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the vendor is a professional and the transaction comprises purchasing professional services from the vendor.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the transaction comprises purchase of goods.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the transaction comprises purchase of a service.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the funding entity comprises a factor.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the funding entity comprises a financial institution.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the funding entity is related to a professional organization to which the vendor is a member.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the vendor secures a second account code from the purchaser, and the second account code is used in paying a portion of the payment for the transaction.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the vendor secures both the first and second account codes from a single electronic transaction device carried by the purchaser.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the electronic transaction device comprises first and second machine readable display areas that concurrently display the first and second account codes.
11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the vendor communicating financial details of the transaction to the funding entity using a public packaged switched network.
12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the vendor substantially concurrently communicating financial details of the transaction and insurance information related to the transaction using a public packaged switched network.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the insurance information comprises medical insurance information.
14. An improved hand carried electronic transaction device, wherein the improvement comprises first and second machine readable display areas that concurrently display different first and second account codes related to first and second financial institutions, respectively.
15. The device of claim 14 wherein the device comprises a credit card.
16. The device of claim 14 wherein each of the first and second display areas contain visually readable text.
17. The device of claim 14 wherein each of the first and second display areas contain tactually raised text.
18. The device of claim 14 wherein each of the first and second display areas comprise a portion of a magnetic stripe.
19. The device of claim 14 wherein the each of the first and second account codes are credit card numbers.